

**Hawaii Invasive Species Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2013**

HISC Voting Members and Participants Present: Senator Nishihara, David Rodriguez (DOT), Dean Gallo (UH), William Aila (DLNR), Russell Kokubun (DOA), Gary Gill (DOH), Loyal Merhoff (USFWS)

Others present: Leo Asuncion (DBEDT OP), Lori Buchanan (MoMISC), Sonia Gorgula (DLNR DAR), Neil Reimer (HDOA PPC), Page Else (BIISC), Inga Gibson (Humane Society), Lanky Morrill (DLNR DOFAW), Angela Kieran-Vast (HI DOD), Ken Kakesako (HDOA), Rob Hauff (DLNR DOFAW), Darcy Oishin (HDOA PPC), Joshua Fisher (USFWS), Earl Campbell (USFWS), R. Brand Phillips (USFWS), Shawn James Learey (Sen Russell Ruderman's office), Lissa Strohecker (MISC), Christy Martin (CGAPS), Jackie Kozak Thiel (HISC), Josh Atwood (DLNR/HISC)

1. Call meeting to order (1:00 PM, Chair Kokubun)
2. Introductions: Welcome to new members, Dr. Maria Gallo has assumed position for Dr. Sylvia Yuen as delegate for UH, David is replacing Ford Fuchigami as delegate for HDOT.
3. Review minutes: Russell Kokubun moves to approve, Gary Gill seconds, all approve.
4. Review of 2013 funding requests for HISC and departmental invasive species programs (Josh Atwood, HISC Coordinator)
  - a. DLNR: This is the first time since FY09 that DLNR has included general funds for HISC in its biennium budget request. The original request was \$2M/yr, but was amended to \$1M/yr by Budget and Finance.
  - b. DOT: For first time DOT has put in a request for HISC into their biennium budget. The request did not pass Budget and Finance, but it was a great first step.
  - c. DOA: Legislative goals include obtaining more resources needed to hire people into vacant and necessary positions. Advocating to implement original intent of barrel tax for energy and food security— increases in those revenues would provide resources for necessary staff. Bill submitted by DBEDT that will propose redistribution of barrel tax revenues. Decision was made in past to take 60 cents of the dollar to put in the general fund during recession. Now that the economy is doing better, this is a good opportunity to utilize the barrel tax for its original intent
  - d. DOH: DOH, DBEDT, and DOA are coming together to support barrel tax, 42.5 cents to DOA, 42.5 cents to Energy and extra .05 to DOH (totaling 10 cents for DOH). Vector control, in the tight fiscal times, removed 40 statewide vector control employees, primarily workers that would respond to mosquito and rats. DOH is planning to do a modest rebuilding of Vector Control, adding 8 positions, targeting points of entry, harbors and airports, where vectors of human disease would be introduced. Two incidents occurred recently of the mosquito species that carries dengue fever being discovered at HNL airport. That species have not been seen since WWII.

5. HISC staff structure update—Josh has moved into a new position with DLNR as the civil service Invasive Species Coordinator. Jackie Kozak Thiel is back up to full-time as Communications Coordinator. Josh's new position includes administration of the HISC as a primary duty. The HISC Coordinator position administered by the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i will not be refilled.
6. Role of HISC Staff in 2013 session (Josh)
  - a. The 2013 Legislative briefing on invasive species will be this Friday. Senator Gabbard has coordinated the briefing. The briefing will include testimony from the HISC council members and practitioners on each island, including staff from HDOA, DLNR, the ISCs, and the Watershed Partnerships.
  - b. HISC testimony will be drafted in addition to department testimony, pending Council approval.
    - i. Gary Gill moves that HISC members approve the staff to track and draft testimony on legislative bills relating to invasive species, testimony can be approved on behalf of the council by one of the co-chairs prior to submittal. HISC should have a profile in the Legislature.
    - ii. Russell Kokubun seconds it, all in favor, motion carried.
7. Review of 2013 bills relevant to invasive species from constituent departments, with determination regarding the submission of testimony
  - a. DOT: Focused on driver safety laws, nothing related to invasive species.
  - b. UH: Nothing at this time.
  - c. DLNR: Securing funding for the Rain Follows the Forest Watershed Initiative. There are two bills that seek funding: 1) increasing conveyance tax of properties over \$2M, and 2) a fee for the distribution of paper bags. There is also a tsunami debris response funding request in the biennium budget.
  - d. DOA: Proposing amendments to the barrel tax. The department would appreciate HISC testimony on how the tax relates to invasive species. HDOA would like to propose development of a new biocontrol lab, but this was not included in the administration package. Looking for support in the legislature to include language to support planning and design process of a new biocontrol lab. The lab needs different climates for research.
  - e. DOH: The department's bills range from soda tax to beverage container law, barrel tax, and a budget submittal for Vector Control funding. HISC testimony is requested for barrel tax bill and the budget request for Vector Control staff.
  - f. DBEDT: Will be supporting the barrel tax initiative, as well as food security studies from EDA grant. Office of Planning can serve in the role to look for extra funding.
  - g. USFWS: Notes that Hawai'i used to have USDA FS, USGS, and DOA all doing biocontrol.
  - h. Senator Nishihara—will have a meeting with Chair Kokubun to focus on planning and design that would identify construction costs for new biocontrol facilities.
  - i. HISC testimony package (Josh will work on draft testimonies):
    - i. Conveyance tax amendments
    - ii. Bag fee bill

- iii. Barrel tax amendments
  - iv. Budgetary provisions for Vector Control staff
  - v. Support for any biocontrol infrastructure funding bills
  - vi. Other invasive species bills / resolutions as they arise.
8. Review of National Invasive Species Council staff meeting (Christy Martin)
- a. Phil Andreozzi, National Invasive Species Council, was in Hawai'i in December 2012 to learn about issues specific to Hawai'i. Chairs Aila and Kokubun, along with a group of Hawai'i invasive species staff, met with him to discuss priorities identified at a field hearing with Senator Akaka in October 2011. A summary of these issues was provided to Phil to work on these through ISAC/NISC. This is a good time to request executive orders for Hawaii and a coalition of states, reauthorize NISC via executive order for new activities, and update authority.
  - b. Several issues identified for Hawai'i by the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species:
    - i. The need for FAA funds to be used for inspections as a core airport function
    - ii. Allowing communication between federal and state inspection staff regarding priority pests
    - iii. The need to reauthorize the Brown Tree Snake Eradication and Control Act of 2004
    - iv. Desired additions to the Lacey Act identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, including five species of constrictor snakes
    - v. The need for additional attention to vectors of human diseases at ports of entry
    - vi. The need for additional regulation of ballast water and hull fouling organisms
    - vii. The need to incorporate a weed risk assessment for invasiveness into EPA recommendations for biofuel stock
  - c. Chair Kokubun requests that this report be formalized into bullet points and that the issues be translated into resolutions for review by the HISC.
  - d. Mark Fox (TNC): The joint federal/state inspection facility at Kahului Airport was able to overcome interagency gaps. Senator Inouye helped to fund this facility. As DOT and DOA look at where inspection facilities are located, it should be recommended that we put state and federal inspection staff together. There is a mutual state and federal benefit of having joint inspections in the Maui facility. We need to figure out how to do that in Honolulu.
  - e. Gary Gill: HISC could endorse and elevate the conversation, could tap into the Governor to write letters.
  - f. Josh will prepare a set of resolutions that would accompany bullet points on the CGAPS briefing document. The Council can review the resolutions at next meeting.
9. CGAPS Annual Public Survey Results
- a. Public support for biocontrol—32% strongly support, 46% somewhat support
  - b. 78% of responders couldn't name a biocontrol success story

10. HISC Support Projects (Josh/Jackie)

- a. “Lei of Protection” planning concept: Will include strategic plan as well as plans prepared by partners that can be endorsed/reviewed by HISC. These can be packaged as a planning initiative for endorsement by the Governor. Gary Gill suggests that we also formulate an interagency team to coordinate an annual response drill, involve the public if possible.
- b. Hawai’i Invasive Species Awareness Week (Jackie)
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> HISAW this year: Kickoff with Governor Abercrombie
  - ii. HISC Awards will recognize community members and businesses in an awards ceremony
  - iii. Community projects will be encouraged across the state
  - iv. Christy Martin will be implementing a “backyard ID” project
  - v. HISC staff will coordinate press and media outreach

11. HISC topic briefing: Little Fire Ant (Darcy Oishi, HDOA)

- a. It is now impossible to eradicate LFA from the Big Island, keeping it from other islands is a priority. Good outreach and early detection are key, as are spot treatments at ports of entry. We now have tools for management and control to manage populations even if we can’t eradicate the species. Tango is a new product that allows for homeowner use, and can be used on crops. People on the big island are really challenged (tango is expensive, people purchasing together). Ant specialist Cas Vaderwoude has been flooded with questions. There are no prospective biocontrol agents available for LFA. With cutbacks in funding for USDA, they are looking into biocontrol for ants, particularly pathogens. None successful so far. Red Imported Fire Ant biocontrol does exist, but it is not that effective.
- b. Lori Buchanan (MoMISC): Suggests a summit to focus on LFA. Could do events about little fire ant during HISAW, too. Have a Legislative briefing on LFA. They need to know the severity of the issue for residents and visitors
- c. Senator Nishihara: This is a major issue for tourist industry. Suggests a presentation to HTA, Hotel Association, neighbor island tourist associations.
- d. Josh: This could be more of a focus for HISC. LFA merits more attention. A neighbor island meeting on the Big Island could be useful to hear from members of the public who are impacted.

12. Next meeting date and location: to be determined. Suggested meetings in May for strategic planning, July for budget review, and September for neighbor island issues.

13. Public Comments

- a. Lori Buchanan (BIISC/MOMISC): We will have new manager at BIISC by the end of the month. The ISCs are hanging on, but are not doing well financially. There has been a 60% capacity loss since 2008, and the ISCs will barely make it through FY13. They do not have enough funding to make it to calendar year 2014.
- b. Christy Martin (CGAPS): We have a new OISC manager, Julia Parish.

14. Adjournment (4:00 PM)